## REMARKS

Claims 1-11 are pending in this application. Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating the presence of allowable subject matter in claims 2-10.

The Examiner took issue with claims 1-4 because of the alleged indefinite nature of the term "minutia." Applicant has amended clams 1-4 to overcome this issue and has made other amendments to claims 1 and 2 to improve readability. No new matter has been added.

The Examiner also took issue with claim 11 because the term "correlation coefficient" is a relative term that allegedly renders the claim indefinite. Applicant has clearly defined the term "correlation coefficient" in the specification at page 12, lines 21-28. The correlation coefficient recited in applicant's claim 11 is a value that indicates the relationship between "a parameter representing the distortion degree and error in the AI value calculated from a pulse wave measured by the sensor right above the artery . . . shown in Figs. 11 and 12."

The Examiner rejected claims 1 and 11 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Kawamura U.S. Patent No. 4,561,447. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Applicant's claim 1 recites a sphygmographic waveform value calculation unit that calculates a characteristic value, e.g., Augmentation Index (AI) value, from signals output from a selected sensor located above an artery and another sensor located at a predetermined distance from the selected sensor. Noise appears as sensor measurement error through the process of measuring at a site distant from the artery. This noise affects the calculation of the degree of distortion. The distortion degree calculation unit determines how much the amplitude of the pulse wave of the sensor located above the artery differs from the sensor at a predetermined distance from the selected sensor. The output of the sensor located at a predetermined distance from the site above the artery is corrected based on the degree of distortion.

Applicant's "distortion degree of a sensor signal" is defined in the specification at page 11, line 23 to page 12, line 6 as:

> The distortion degree of a sensor signal is defined from an AI value calculated based on a sensor signal from a sensor element right above an artery, and an AI value calculated based on a sensor signal from a sensor element located at a predetermined distance from the sensor element right above the artery. In other words, the distortion degree of a sensor signal of respective cases is defined from the difference between an AI value based on a sensor signal from a sensor element right above an artery and an AI value based on a sensor signal from a sensor element located at a predetermined distance from the sensor element right above the artery (A1 and B1 of FIG. 9, and A2 and B2 of FIG. 10). A1 and A2 are generically referred to as "A" and B1 and B2 are generically referred to as "B" hereinafter. The method of defining the degree of distortion is not limited to that described in the present invention. For example, it may be defined with a coefficient (A+B), or a coefficient ($A^2$+$B^2$).

Kawamura is directed to removing noise caused by variation in the pressing force of the sensor by referring to the value of the sensor located above the artery and the value of a sensor located distant from the artery. In contrast to applicant's invention, Kawamura removes noise by setting a large value for the amplification rate with respect to the output signal from the sensor located above the artery and reducing the amplification rate for the output signal of the other sensor in proportion to the distance away from the artery such that the total sum of the output signal from each sensor becomes zero. That is not the claimed invention. Although applicant's invention and the Kawamura reference are similar in that measurements are obtained by a sensor array, they differ in their subsequent approach to correcting these measurements. Accordingly, claim 1 should be allowed. This logic also disposes of the rejection of claim 11, which depends directly from claim 1.

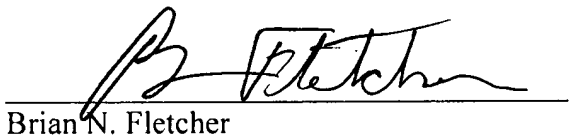
Regarding the rejection of claim 11, as previously discussed, in applicant's specification at page 12, lines 21-28, the correlation coefficient recited in applicant's claim 11 is defined as a value that indicates the relationship between "a parameter representing the distortion degree and error in the AI value calculated from a pulse wave measured by the sensor right above the artery . . . shown in Figs. 11 and 12." Thus, applicant's correlation coefficient completely differs from the "weight coefficient" in the Kawamura reference, and claim 11 should be allowed for this reason as well.

In view of the above, each of the claims in this application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, applicant solicits early action in the form of a Notice of Allowance.

In the event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent and Trademark Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing Docket No. **163852020800**.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: August 30, 2006

By: 

Brian N. Fletcher
Registration No. 51,683

Morrison & Foerster LLP
1650 Tysons Boulevard, Suite 300
McLean, Virginia 22102
Telephone: (703) 760-7796
Facsimile: (703) 760-7777